

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL: THE PARTIAL RESTORATION OF SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDER ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL FRONT THIS WEEK AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY STARTLING NEW LOCKHEED-CASE DEVELOPMENTS PERMITTED SOMEWHAT MORE ATTENTION TO BE GIVEN TO FOREIGN EVENTS THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR MUCH OF 1976. PRIME FOREIGN STORIES IN THE FAST NEWS MEDIA WERE THE HANDLING OF THE MIG-25, THE SWEDISH ELECTIONS, THE STATE VISIT OF BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT, AND THE SECSTATE'S AFRICAN MISSION. THESE ALL EARNED MUCH COVERAGE AND RATED PRESS EDITORIALS AND TV COMMENTARIES--SHOWING THE KEEN INTEREST OF AN INFORMED ELITE. ALSO, THE CLOSE OF THE LOS CONFERENCE WITHOUT PRODUCING ANY AGREEMENT WAS WIDELY NOTED AND CAUSED THE LEADING DAILY "ASAHI" TO COMPLAIN AGAIN EDITORIALLY THAT THE U.S.IMPOSITION OF A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE WOULD "VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." WHILE THE ECONOMIC DAILY "NIHON KEIZAI" PROMINENTLY REPORTED AND COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON COMMERCE SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S URGING MODERATION ON THE REGIONAL FISHERY COMMISSIONS, ASAHI HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS.

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A VERY SIGNIFICANT PRODUCT OF A PRIVATE BROADCASTER'S TV EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR IS APPEARING THIS WEEK ON NOON-HOUR TV SCREENS: FIVE HOUR-LONG SATELLITED FEATURE/VARIETY PROGRAMS ON CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE USSR. JOINT JAPANESE AND SOVIET TV TEAMS ARE PRODUCING THE BASIC MATERIAL FOR NET'S POPULAR (MAINLY WITH HOUSEWIVES) AFTERNOON SHOW. RAVC WILL CABLE A FULLER DESCRIPTION.

2. PROGRAM

A. NANCY SMITH BARRETT: CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
ECONOMIST NANCY SMITH BARRETT BEGAN HER JAPAN TOUR AT TOKYO AC WITH A MIXED AUDIENCE OF SOME 80 SPECIALISTS, ALMOST ENTIRELY ARS MEMBERS. TACKLING THE TOPIC OF "POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY," BARRETT GAVE CONGRESS MUCH CREDIT FOR STATE OF U. . ECONOMY'S RECOVERY FROM RECESSION AND EXPLAINED CONTINUING ROLE CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO PLAY IN POLICYMAKING, WHOEVER WINS IN NOVEMBER. SOME AUDIENCE MEMBERS THOUGHT SHE OVERPLAYED DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE IN ECONOMIC POLICY THAT A DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION MIGHT ESPOUSE AS COMPARED TO CURRENT POLICY.

B. RICHARD MEIER: UC-BERKELEY URBANOLOGIST/ENVIRONMENTALIST
RICHARD MEIER MET WITH A MIXED AUDIENCE OF 85 (74 ARS PRIMARY), MAINLY CITY PLANNERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, FOR A PROGRAM AT THE TOKYO AC EXPECTED TO BE ON PLANNING BETTER URBAN ENVIRONMENTS. AS IT TURNED OUT, MEIER MOSTLY DISCUSSED THE FAILURE OF NATION-SIZE MASTER PLANS BECAUSE THE PLANNERS AND COMPUTERS COULD NOT ADEQUATELY DEFINE AND PREDICT HUMAN BEHAVIOR. WE CONSIDERED THIS PART OF HIS PROGRAM ONLY MINIMALLY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR COUNTRY OBJECTIVES. MEIER'S DESCRIPTION OF GAMING SIMULATIONS AT U.C. WITH URBANOLOGISTS WAS USEFUL. AT KYOTO AC, MEIER PRODUCED A VERY SOLID DISCUSSION OF "RECENT THINKING ON PRACTICAL URBAN PLANNING" IN A CO-SPONSORED PROGRAM WITH KYOTO CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY'S URBAN PLANNING OFFICIALS. MEIER'S USEFUL FOCUS ON URBAN TRANSPORTATION, POLLUTION VS. COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND PLANNING PROBLEMS SPARKED DISCUSSION THAT RAN THE PROGRAM INTO OVERTIME.

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C. WILLIAM GADDIS: NOVELIST WILLIAM GADDIS PARTICIPATED IN A GOOD PROGRAM AT KYOTO AC ON U.S. SOCIETY AND SOCIAL VALUES, AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE ARTIST TO HIS SOCIETY. HIS AUDIENCE OF 70 (54 ARS PRIMARY), DRAWN FROM ACADEMIC, ARTS AND MEDIA CIRCLES, KEPT HIM UNTIL 11 PM FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION; AND SOME LATER WROTE TO KAC EXPRESSING GENUINE SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRAM. AT NAGOYA AC, GADDIS ALSO PROVOKED DEEP AND STIMULATING DISCUSSION WITH HIS AUDIENCE

OF OVER 30 (26 ARS PRIMARY), MAINLY ACADEMICIANS, WRITERS AND GRAD STUDENTS. AGAIN GADDIS SHOWED HIS FINE ABILITY TO RELATE SOCIAL VALUES TO LITERARY WORKS OF 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY U.S. WRITERS.

D. PRESS PLACEMENT: THE 9/19 DAILY "SANKEI" CARRIED AT USIS-ARRANGED 50-COLUMN-INCH INTERVIEW WITH POLITICAL ANALYST BEN WATTENBERG, DISCUSSING THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PREDICTING A CLOSE RACE.

3. USEC/J BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM: IN COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF JAPAN AND THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, THE U.S. EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION IN JAPAN (USEC/J) BEGAN CIRCULATING A "JAPAN-UNITED STATES FORUM" IN TOKYO AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL. WITH PROFESSORS DONALD KEENE AND JAMES MORLEY FROM COLUMBIA AND SUCH NOTED JAPANESE INTELLIECTUALS AS JUN ETO AND SHOTARO YASUOKA AS SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSANTS, THE LECTURE SERIES FOCUSES ON THE THEM OF "JAPAN-US RELATIONS--PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. MANY LOCAL SPONSORS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FOR THE LECTURES OUTSIDE OF TOKYO. USEC/J HAS RELIED HEAVILY ON USIS AND ITS BPAO'S TO PRODUCE INVITATION LISTS FOR LOCAL AUDIENCES. IN FUKUOKA, THE AC HAD TO STEP IN AS CO-SPONSOR AND FOOT MUCH OF THE BILL FOR LOCAL EXPENSES. THE CIRCUIT IS TOKYO, OSAKA, FUKUOKA, HIROSHIMA, KANAZAWA, SENDAI AND SAPPORO. CPAO MILLER JOINED IN THE PROGRAM IN HIROSHIMA AND WILL TAKE PART IN THE SAPPORO PROGRAM. ABOUT 175 PERSONS ATTENDED THE TOKYO PROGRAM--MANY OF THEM ARS PRIMARY. THE SOMEWHAT SMALLER AUDIENCES OUTSIDE OF TOKYO ALSO INCLUDED MANY OF OUR PRIMARY AUDIENCE. IN FUKUOKA, TWICE AS MANY PEOPLE ACCEPTED INVITATIONS AS EXPECTED, PRODUCING AN SRO AUDIENCE.

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